

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
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SECDEF WASHDC
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CINCUSARUER HEIDELBERG GE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
OJCS WASHDC
USCINCLANT NORFOLK
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BE
USDOCO SOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 OSLO 3508

FROM AMBASSADOR TO GENERAL HUYSER

USDOCO SOUTH NAPLES FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, MPOL, NO
SUBJECT: PRESTOCKAGE AND PREPOSITIONING IN NORWAY

1. YOUR HEADQUARTERS HAS RECENTLY CONCLUDED THE INITIAL
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE NORWEGIAN HIGH COMMAND ON A LINES OF
COMMUNICATION AGREEMENT WHICH, TOGETHER WITH ITS IMPLEMENTING
JOINT LOGISTICS PLAN, WILL CONSTITUTE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT
IN THE USG'S CAPACITY TO REINFORCE NORWAY EFFICIENTLY IN TIME

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OF CRISIS OR WAR. ANOTHER IMPORTANT ELEMENT IS, I BELIEVE,
PRESTOCKAGE OF EQUIPMENT AND MATERIEL. THE ADVANTAGES THEREBY
ACCRUED IN TERMS OF TIME AND LIFT REQUIREMENT SAVED ARE OBVIOUS.
OTHER REINFORCING NATIONS, NAMELY, GREAT BRITAIN AND
CANADA ARE ALREADY MOVING IN THIS DIRECTION AND THE FRG
HAS HAD MATERIEL STORED IN NORWAY FOR YEARS.

2. IN THE PAST, THE GON WAS RELUCTANT TO ENTER INTO DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OF PRESTOCKAGE IN NORWAY BECAUSE ESSENTIALLY OF THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF APPEARING TO INFRINGE ON NORWAY'S SELF-IMPOSED PROHIBITION AGAINST PEACETIME FOREIGN BASING IN NORWAY. HOWEVER, DURING THE LAST YEAR WE HAVE NOTICED A DISTINCT CHANGE IN THE NORWEGIAN PUBLIC'S MOOD WHICH HAS BEEN REFLECTED BY THE PARLIAMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT. THERE IS A CLEAR INTEREST NOW IN UPGRADING NORWAY'S DEFENSE POSTURE, THE VIABILITY OF WHICH IS DIRECTLY TIED TO TIMELY, EFFECTIVE ALLIED REINFORCEMENTS. THE STATUS, THEREFORE, OF THE REINFORCING NATIONS' COMMITMENTS TO NORWAY, AND OF THEIR NEEDS HAVE RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION BY POLITICIANS, BY SENIOR GOVERNMENT FIGURES AND BY THE MEDIA.

3. AMERICA'S ROLE IN THE DEFENSE OF NORWAY IS PARAMOUNT. THUS, NORWAY HAS WORKED VERY CLOSELY WITH US MILITARY DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS TO PROVIDE US TROOPS WITH THE SPECIAL TRAINING NECESSARY FOR OPERATIONS ON THE NORTHERN FLANK (MARINES AND US NATIONAL GUARD) TO DEVELOP ADEQUATE BASING FOR INCOMING US AIR AND US MARINE REINFORCEMENTS (COBS) AND MOST RECENTLY TO DEVELOP ADEQUATE LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS TO FORWARD MEN AND EQUIPMENT (OCL AGREEMENT).

4. THE GON IS SENSITIVE TO THE FACT THAT NO AMERICAN GROUND FORCES HAVE AS YET BEEN COMMITTED TO THE REINFORCEMENT
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OF NORWAY AND SEE AT LEAST AS A PARTIAL EXPLANATION THE INADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH HAS EXISTED IN THE PAST. THEY THEREFORE HAVE BEGUN SERIOUSLY TO WORK TO TAKE REMEDIAL STEPS SUCH AS THE COBS AND THE LOC AND THE INTENSIFIED TRAINING, AND ARE ALSO NOW VERY INTERESTED IN PROCEEDING WITH US TO DEVELOP PRESTOCKAGE PLANS. I AM SURE IT IS NOT LOST ON THEM THAT AN AMERICAN GROUND COMMITMENT TO NORWAY WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO BE FORTHCOMING IF AMERICAN EQUIPMENT FOR GROUND FORCES WAS PRESTOCKED IN NORWAY. IN SUM, THE CLIMATE FOR MOVING AHEAD ON THE WHOLE RANGE OF REINFORCEMENT ISSUES AND PARTICULARLY PRESTOCKAGE HAS NEVER BEEN BETTER.

5. I BELIEVE THAT ANYTHING THE US CAN DO TO IMPROVE NORWAY'S DEFENSE IN REAL TERMS AND PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY TO IMPROVE NORWEGIANS' FAITH IN THE VIABILITY OF ITS DEFENSE IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO THE MAINTENANCE OF A STABLE NORTHERN FLANK OF THE ALLIANCE. AN ALLY WHICH BORDERS THE SOVIET UNION AND HAS NO CONFIDENCE IN ITS ABILITY TO DEFEND ITSELF IS INHERENTLY DESTABILIZING.

6. BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE I ATTACH TO THESE ISSUES, I HAVE ORGANIZED AN EMBASSY COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF THE DEPUTY

CHIEF OF MISSION, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MILITARY SECTIONS

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 OSLO 3508

FROM AMBASSADOR TO GENERAL HUYSER

USDOCO SOUTH NAPLES FOR POLAD

AND THE POLITICAL SECTION UNDER MY CHAIRMANSHIP. WE
ARE TRYING TO DRAW TOGETHER THE VARIOUS BITS AND PIECES
AND MAKE IT INTO COHERENT WHOLE THAT IS UNDERSTANDABLE,
RATIONAL AND CAN BE ADVANCED OR ABANDONED ON ITS MERITS.

7. ONE IDEA I PLAN TO PURSUE WITH THE GROUP IS A DRAFT
UMBRELLA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON PREPOSITIONING
AND PRESTOCKAGE. THE PURPOSE WOULD BE TO LAY OUT THE
PRINCIPLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES ON BOTH SIDES WHICH WOULD
GUIDE SUBSEQUENT PRESTOCKAGE AGREEMENTS. HOWEVER, BEFORE
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WE CAN BEGIN EVEN PRELIMINARY WORK ON SUCH A PROJECT WE NEED A LIST OF THE ITEMS WHICH US FORCES MIGHT CONSIDER PRESTOCKING. A PRIME CANDIDATE IS EQUIPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION AGREEMENT. ANOTHER IS EQUIPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE UW DEPLOYMENTS. HOWEVER, BEFORE WE REALLY BEGIN TO ADDRESS A POSSIBLE DRAFT MOU, WE NEED LISTS OF EQUIPMENT THAT WILL DESCRIBE THE PARAMETERS OF WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT.

8. THEREFORE, I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE IT IF RELEVANT ELEMENTS OF YOUR COMMAND COULD ASSEMBLE A DRAFT REQUIREMENTS LIST FOR PRESTOCKAGE WITH WHICH WE COULD WORK. I CONSIDER THIS A JOINT PROJECT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT WE SHOULD ALL TURN OUR PRIORITY ATTENTION TO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BEST PERSONAL REGARDS. LOU LERNER

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